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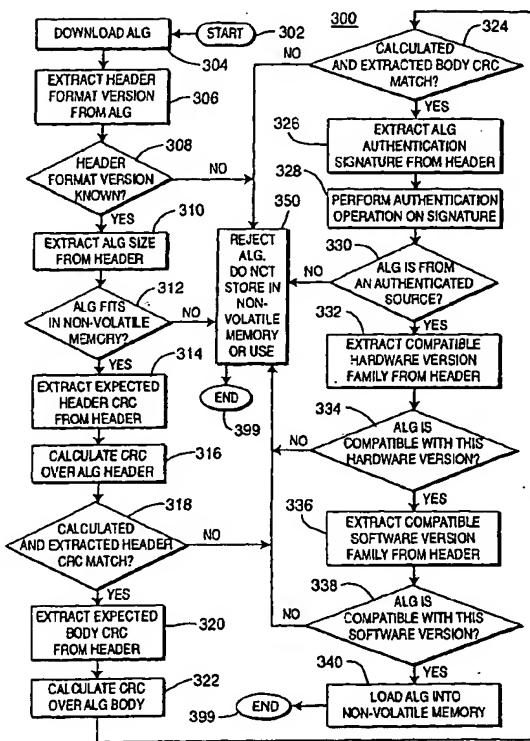
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*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: APPLICATION LEVEL GATEWAY AND FIREWALL RULE SET DOWNLOAD VALIDATION



(57) Abstract: Method (300) and apparatus (100) for validating application level gateway (ALG) files or firewall rulesets (200). The method and apparatus include receiving (304), at a bi-directional communications device (130), an application level gateway (ALG) file (200), and comparing (308, 310, 314, 320, 326, 332, 336) at least one compatibility parameter of said ALG file with features of said bi-directional communications device. In an instance where all of the compatibility parameters compare favorably, the ALG file is stored (340) at the bi-directional communications device.

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